



Homeland
Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

18 September 2012

Top Stories

- Hundreds of residents in Mishawaka, Indiana, returned home September 15 after a chemical fire at a vacant plant in the midst of a federal cleanup forced them, and many area businesses to evacuate. – *Associated Press* (See item [5](#))
- A deadly, drug-resistant superbug outbreak that began during the 2011 summer at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center claimed its seventh victim September 7. – *Washington Post* (See item [21](#))
- Government safety regulators are investigating nearly 200,000 Ford Crown Victoria police cars due to complaints about defective steering columns. – *Associated Press* (See item [27](#))
- Microsoft researchers investigating counterfeit software in China found that new systems being booted for the first time were already compromised with botnet malware. – *PCWorld* (See item [35](#))
- A man accused of trying to detonate a car bomb outside a bar in Chicago was scheduled to appear in federal court September 17. – *Associated Press*; *WMAQ 5 Chicago* (See item [42](#))

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Energy Sector

1. *September 16, Associated Press* – (Washington; Idaho) **Wire thieves creep through Idaho, Washington State.** Thieves in northern Idaho and eastern Washington State are still targeting copper wire for the scrap market despite lower metal prices and electrocution risks, power company officials say. Officials tell the Spokane Spokesman-Review that thieves cause higher electricity bills for customers and endanger the public by leaving live wires. The communications manager for Avista Utilities said thieves have cut down live lines and climbed substation fences to steal equipment that could kill them. He said the company recently discovered copper grounding wire, worth about \$200 on the scrap metal market, missing from about 60 poles in rural areas north and south of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. He said it will cost about \$10,000 to replace ground wires, with ratepayers paying for the thefts. He also said the missing grounding wire means line crews do not have a safety guard to tie into while working on the poles. And if a storm or car crash knocks down a pole, the wires might not de-energize properly. In addition, voltage fluctuations can be caused by improperly grounded power lines that can damage home electronics.
Source: http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2019173847_apwawirethieves1stldwritethru.html
2. *September 15, KTUU 2 Anchorage* – (Alaska) **Schlumberger building in Nikiski damaged in fire.** Fire crews with the Nikiski Fire Department in Anchorage, Alaska battled flames and smoke at a commercial structure fire September 14. According to officials, the Schlumberger building caught fire just before 8 p.m. Crews were able to get everything under control before just over an hour and a half. The fire department said no employees were inside at the time of the fire but there was heavy smoke and fire damage to the building. Crews determined the fire started in the back of the oil field services facility, possibly by an oil waste heater that was being used.
Source: http://articles.ktuu.com/2012-09-15/fire-crews_33868136
3. *September 15, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Black smoke from refinery is non-emergency, officials say.** Black smoke billowing into the sky in the Wilmington section of Los Angeles September 15 was the result of a non-emergency flaring operation at the Conoco Phillips Refinery and did not require a response from fire personnel, said a Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman. The smoke could be seen throughout the area, prompting calls from concerned residents. A spokeswoman for Phillips 66, which operates the refinery, said the plant “had a complete loss of power” and the refinery had been shut down. The spokeswoman said the smoke was the result of “some product left in the line”.
Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2012/09/black-smoke-sprewing-from-refinery-is-non-emergency-officials-say.html>
4. *September 14, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Baltimore Gas and Electric officials voice support for burying some power lines.** Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. (BGE) officials told State energy regulators September 13 that major changes to the electricity

grid, including burying some power lines and more aggressively trimming trees, are needed to prevent long-term outages like the one that followed the June 29 derecho. “A part of the solution has to be having less damage to repair,” the BGE CEO said at a Maryland Public Service Commission hearing on utilities’ response to the storm. “Undergrounding selectively has to be part of the solution.” Many power lines in newer communities around the State are underground, but some have discussed burying overhead lines in areas with many mature trees. Commissioners also pressed the utility to provide more information to customers and emergency responders to help the region better weather future mass outages. BGE officials defended their actions, calling the cleanup efficient despite the storm taking them and most of the State by surprise. The commission is reviewing all utilities’ repair efforts after the storm left more than 1 million Marylanders without power. In BGE’s territory, 762,000 customers lost power for an average of 38 hours; many residents were without electricity for as many as 7-8 days.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/baltimore-gas-and-electric-officials-voice-support-for-burying-some-power-lines/2012/09/14/7e3c8b6a-fe68-11e1-a31e-804fccb658f9_story.html

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *September 17, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Evacuation order lifted after Indiana chemical fire.** Hundreds of residents in Mishawaka, Indiana, returned home early September 15 after a chemical fire at a vacant plant in the midst of a federally supervised cleanup ousted them from their homes. The all-clear was given after air monitoring showed it was safe for residents to return home within a 1-mile radius of the old Baycote factory. The Mishawaka battalion chief said the September 14 fire released a chemical vapor cloud of unknown substances, noting that about 200 people live or work at businesses in the evacuation zone. The Baycote complex was once an electroplating and metal-finishing business, but it has been vacant since 2008. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began cleaning up the site in the spring of 2012. The EPA on-scene coordinator said more than 50,000 gallons of liquid and solid chemicals were stored there when the cleanup started, but most of the material was already removed. He said chemicals that a crew put into a plastic-lined cardboard box self-combusted and caught fire early the evening of September 14 — hours after the workers left the building. He said the white cloud the fire made may have contained hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen sulfide, and sulfur dioxide. The fire was confined to the storage container. The EPA plans to analyze what caused the fire and reassess its approach to removing the remaining chemicals from the site, the on-site coordinator said.

Source: <http://www.manufacturing.net/news/2012/09/evacuation-order-lifted-after-indiana-chemical-fire>

6. *September 15, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Toxins found near Stolthaven Braithwaite terminal flooded by Hurricane Isaac.** The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced September 14 that air monitoring immediately after Hurricane Isaac showed levels of a toxic chemical high enough to require use of a respirator on a levee outside the Stolthaven New Orleans LLC petroleum and chemical storage and transfer terminal in Braithwaite. Testing of floodwaters near the site revealed chemicals, but not at levels threatening to public health. However, the DEQ warned residents to avoid contact with floodwaters and sediment. The department also announced it issued a “notice of potential penalty” September 4 to Stolthaven for its failure to give the agency timely notice of potential chemical spills. September 14, a Stolthaven spokesman said the firm filed a report with DEQ that said up to 38,700 gallons of paraffinic oils might have been lost from two damaged tanks at the Plaquemines Parish facility, and some of that material may have moved off-site. In its September 14 news release, the DEQ said it would continue water and soil testing, and air monitoring. The statement said fines could reach \$32,500 per day for each potential violation until the contamination is removed. The levee overtopped by Isaac was a parish-built levee that does not meet standards set by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to protect areas from surges created by a hurricane with a 1 percent chance of occurring in any year, also known as a 100-year event.
Source:
http://www.nola.com/hurricane/index.ssf/2012/09/toxins_found_near_stolthaven_b.html

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *September 17, Portsmouth Seacoast Online* – (New Hampshire) **NRC: ‘No concerns’ after Seabrook nuke plant reactor shutdown.** The Seabrook Station nuclear power plant in Seabrook, New Hampshire, experienced a reactor trip September 14, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The trip occurred when a feedwater regulating valve shut when it should not have due to a computer card failure, according to an NRC statement. The plant entered a refueling and maintenance outage early following the shutdown. The NRC said an inspector verified that the shutdown was being safely and effectively carried out.
Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20120917-NEWS-120919785>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

8. *September 17, Associated Press* – (Kansas) **Copper thieves cause \$750,000 in damage.** Copper thieves tore out electrical systems at the Kamen Industrial Park in Wichita, Kansas, causing about \$750,000 in damage, the Associated Press reported September 17. Police said the vandals stole about 2,000 feet of copper wiring. The thieves hit the roof of the building tearing out electrical systems to get to the copper

wiring.

Source: <http://www.salina.com/news/story/copper-thefts-9-17-12>

9. *September 17, The Register* – (International) **Got a BMW? Thicko thieves can easily nick it with \$30 box.** BMWs and other high-end cars are being stolen by unskilled criminals using a \$30 tool developed by hackers to defeat the on-board security systems, The Register reported September 17. The new tool is capable of reprogramming a blank key, and allows non-technical car thieves to steal a vehicle within 2 or 3 minutes or less. On-board diagnostics (OBD) bypass tools are being shipped from China and Eastern Europe in kit form with instructions and blank keys, said a news report linking the release of the tool to a spike in car thefts in Australia, Europe, and elsewhere during 2012. Would-be car thieves need to grab the transmission between a valid key fob and a car before reprogramming a blank key, which can then be used to either open the car or start it, via the OBD system. “Crooks only need to monitor a person using the key or interrogate the key fob to get enough information to decipher the key,” explained a professor from the center for cyber security sciences at London’s City University. Weak cryptography combined with a “security through obscurity” approach on the OBD specification allows the tactic to succeed. A post from Pistonheads suggests that devices similar to those used in BMWs are also available for Opel, Renault, Mercedes, Volkswagen, and Toyota cars. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/09/17/bmw_car_theft_hack/

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *September 14, WAPT 16 Jackson* – (Mississippi) **Woman says men strapped bomb to her, told her to rob bank.** A woman told police that she was forced to strap on a backpack she thought contained explosives and was told to rob a Canton, Mississippi bank, the Associated Press reported September 14. The woman walked into a Trustmark bank and told employees she had a bomb and they should call police, the Canton police chief said. She told police that two men attacked and kidnapped her near a gas station in Canton. The men threatened to kill the woman and hurt her child if she did not rob the bank, the police chief said. She told police the men told her to keep the bank doors open so they could watch her during the robbery. Police closed down some of the streets in the area for several hours and told residents they were to stay inside with their doors locked. FBI officials said it had not been determined if the device was an actual bomb. The backpack was safely detonated by bomb squad members.

Source: <http://www.wapt.com/news/central-mississippi/Police-Men-strapped-bomb-to-woman-told-her-to-rob-bank/-/9156946/16604466/-/r8nyof/-/index.html>

11. *September 14, KCBS 2 Los Angeles* – (California) **‘Desperate Bandit’ strikes again in Tustin, Chino.** Officials said the “Desperate Bandit” hit a Tustin, California bank September 14, and also robbed a bank in Chino later that day. In the first robbery, the FBI said the man walked into a Bank of the West branch, passed a note to a teller, and left with about \$240. The bandit is also believed to have previously robbed US Bank branches in Chino and Anaheim. In each of the reported robberies, the suspect has handed over typed notes and describes his financial situation as “desperate,” hence the nickname.

Source: <http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2012/09/14/desperate-bandit-strikes-again-in-tustin-chino/>

12. *September 14, Associated Press* – (National) **7 charged in \$17M multistate fraud schemes.** A federal indictment unsealed September 14 charged seven people with running a multistate Ponzi scheme and related mortgage fraud scams that prosecutors said cost investors and lenders a combined \$17 million. The years-long investigation resulted in the arrest of a man and his father-in-law, who were charged with operating Loomis Wealth Solutions, a fraudulent California-based investment fund that cost more than 100 investors more than \$7 million. They and five other defendants are also charged in a 50-count indictment with costing lenders \$10 million in losses through two mortgage fraud schemes involving about 200 properties in Arizona, California, Florida, and elsewhere.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_21548696/7-charged-17m-multistate-fraud-schemes

13. *September 13, Bloomberg News* – (National) **Canadian man pleads guilty in \$130 million Ponzi scheme.** A Canadian man pleaded guilty to charges he ran a \$130 million Ponzi scheme selling fraudulent certificates of deposit to 1,200 people through banking entities he controlled, U.S. prosecutors said. The man admitted that from January 2004 to March 2009 he and others sold more than \$129.5 million of bogus CDs to investors, causing losses of more than \$75 million. He pleaded guilty to 18 counts of conspiracy, mail and wire fraud, and tax evasion, prosecutors said. The man surrendered voluntarily, has been in custody since April, and is cooperating with the government to recover funds, his lawyer said. He faces as long as 20 years in prison and a fine of twice the loss for the most serious charges.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-09-14/canadian-man-pleads-guilty-in-130-million-ponzi-scheme.html>

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Transportation Sector

14. *September 14, KTLA 5 Los Angeles* – (California) **Montebello bus plunges off 110 freeway overpass.** A Montebello transit bus plunged off a bridge over the 110 Freeway in downtown Los Angeles September 14. The bus broke through a barrier on the 6th

Street bridge and landed on the 110 North at the 3rd Street off-ramp. A Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman said the bus was parked when its brakes gave out causing it to break through the guard rail and plunge to the road below. No one was on the bus at the time. The 6th Street bridge was closed, as was the 3rd Street ramp while a heavy tow truck was brought in.

Source: <http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-bus-off-bridge,0,5277480.story>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *September 17, North County Times* – (California) **Bomb squad explodes suspicious device.** Authorities received a call about a suspicious device found in a mailbox September 17 in Encinitas, California, said a police spokesman. An investigation of the suspected pipe bomb prompted authorities to close La Costa Avenue, causing a traffic mess for morning commuters. An anonymous caller told authorities about the device. The device, later determined to be a fake, was described as about 12 inches long and one inch thick with black tape at the end and a “realistic looking timer.” A bomb squad exploded the device.

Source: http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/encinitas/encinitas-bomb-squad-explodes-realistic-pipe-bomb/article_fa31a6f2-9350-5e8d-87bd-50c009c36d78.html?comment_form=true

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *September 15, WISH 8 Indianapolis* – (Florida; National) **Chicken strips recalled after plastic found inside.** Serenade Foods, Inc is recalling about 2,250 pounds of crunchy chicken strip products that may contain fragments of plastic, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced September 14. The 7.5 pound cases of 30 ounce cartons of “Milford Valley Farms Crunchy Chicken Strips” are being recalled from Serenade Foods. The products have a use by date of January 17, 2014 and were packaged January 17, 2012. They were shipped to a distributor in Lakeland, Florida, for further distribution. The company alerted FSIS of the problem after receiving two consumer complaints. FSIS and the firm have received no reports of injury or illnesses associated with consumption of this product.

Source: <http://www.wishtv.com/dpp/news/indiana/fda-recalls-chicken-strips>

17. *September 15, Hackensack Record* – (New Jersey) **Fire destroys West Milford deli.** Short-handed West Milford, New Jersey firefighters needed help from departments across the northern area of the State to battle a fire early September 14 that burned a bar and deli to the ground and ignited four propane tanks that launched flames 30 feet into the air. The flames kept firefighters at bay for almost 2 hours, making it

impossible to extinguish the fire before the deli burned to the ground. More than 60 firefighters from 21 municipalities doused the smoldering debris. They estimated that losses from the fire will exceed \$500,000. Police shut down part of Greenwood Lake Turnpike, a major thoroughfare, while firefighters hosed the building down and excavators demolished it. The fire apparently started in the kitchen.

Source: http://www.northjersey.com/news/passaic_morris/169857836.html?page=all

18. *September 14, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **Cut Fruit Express, Inc. announces a voluntary recall of Fresh Cut Fruits products containing cantaloups because of possible health risk.** Cut Fruit Express, Inc. of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, is voluntarily recalling packaged fruit products containing cantaloupes, distributed through September 5 since they contain cantaloupe which was recalled by supplier DFI Marketing Inc., due to potential contamination with Salmonella. No illnesses were reported specific to the Cut Fruit Express Products that are the subject of this voluntary, precautionary recall. The voluntary recall extends only to the products sold in Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm319523.htm>

19. *September 14, Mount Pleasant Patch* – (South Carolina) **Sewage spills halt clam harvest.** A clam farm near Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, was closed at least until September 26 after approximately 900,000 gallons of sewage contaminated local water, according to the Charleston Post and Courier September 14. To make matters worse, 3 days later, about 470,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater overflowed at the Sullivan's Island treatment plant. The farm could re-open after a State inspection later in the month. Both spills were attributed to heavy rains that overburdened sewage systems.

Source: <http://mountpleasant-sc.patch.com/articles/sewage-spills-halt-clam-season>

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Water Sector

20. *September 16, KSL 5 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Cedar Hills residents get giardia parasite from dirty water supply.** Since early July, residents in a Cedar Hills, Utah, neighborhood, kept getting sick, with symptoms worsening by September, KSL 5 Salt Lake City reported September 16. Several residents were diagnosed with giardia, a parasite that can be found in water, uncooked food, excrement, and soil. The only common factor among the 13 affected houses was dirty yellow water. The area had been receiving water from Manila Water Company until that company went bankrupt earlier in the summer. July 5, a private contractor moved its line to an existing Cedar Hills system, the same time residents began falling ill. "We did find a cross-connect in (a) cluster of valves where there was a 2-inch lateral tied from the culinary irrigation to the pressurized irrigation," said the city manager. A small, unknown pipe was allowing in secondary water but the city was unaware and it was never identified on the construction plan. That pipe has since been patched and the city flushed the system

with chlorine and fresh water. It will be testing the water through September 21 to make sure the giardia is contained. A notice asking residents to boil their water to kill off the germ was expected to be lifted within a week.

Source: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=22177222>

For more stories, see items [6](#) and [19](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

21. *September 14, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **NIH superbug claims 7th victim.** A deadly, drug-resistant superbug outbreak that began during the 2011 summer at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center claimed its seventh victim September 7, when a seriously ill boy from Minnesota succumbed to a bloodstream infection, officials said September 14. The boy was the 19th patient at the research hospital to contract an antibiotic-resistant strain of the bacterium *Klebsiella pneumoniae* that arrived in August 2011 with a New York woman who needed a lung transplant. But his case marked the first new infection of this superbug at NIH since January — a worrisome signal that the bug persists inside the huge brick-and-glass federal facility in Bethesda, Maryland.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/nih-superbug-claims-7th-victim/2012/09/14/09b3742e-fe9b-11e1-b153-218509a954e1_story.html

22. *September 14, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **Frisco couple, Plano man indicted on health-care fraud charges.** Three people were arraigned in federal court in Texas, September 13 and indicted on charges including conspiracy, health care fraud, making false statements to a financial institution, and engaging in illegal monetary transactions with fraud proceeds, said the U.S. attorney's office. The three owned and operated various hyperbaric oxygen therapy companies in north Texas, Houston, and San Antonio. The indictment stated, they engaged in a scheme between 2008 and 2011 to defraud Medicare by double-billing for the physician supervision and attendance of oxygen-therapy-related services. Two of the suspects also face charges alleging they made material false statements to a financial institution to obtain a \$1.3 million residential loan in Dallas. The indictment states the couple failed to disclose their \$2.15 million Frisco home in the loan paperwork. Each pleaded not guilty.

Source: <http://friscoblog.dallasnews.com/2012/09/frisco-couple-plano-man-indicted-on-health-care-fraud-charges.html/>

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Government Facilities Sector

23. *September 17, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Security high at Teaneck-Northern Valley Regional HS football game after shooting threat.** Extra police were on duty September 16 at the rescheduled Teaneck-Northern Valley Regional, New Jersey high school football game, which was canceled abruptly September 15 after school officials

learned of a “shooting threat” before the game. Police said after the game that there were no incidents and they are still investigating the threat. Teaneck school administrators made the police aware of the situation sometime after 5:30 p.m. September 15. The game was 15 minutes from kickoff when an announcement was made over the public address system that it was being postponed. Teaneck’s athletic director called the threat “credible.”

Source:

http://www.northjersey.com/sports/hs_sports/Police_security_stepped_up_for_todays_Teaneck-Northern_Valley_Regional_HS_football_game.html

24. *September 17, Associated Press* – (International) **Violence over anti-Islam film in 3 nations.** Demonstrations against an anti-Islam film turned violent the weekend of September 14 outside a U.S. Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan, the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, and a U.S. military base in Afghanistan. Hundreds of protesters clashed with police when they tried to storm the U.S. Consulate in Karachi. One protester was killed and more than a dozen were wounded. In Jakarta, hundreds of Indonesians angered over the film clashed with police outside the U.S. Embassy, hurling rocks and firebombs and setting tires alight outside the mission. At least 10 police were rushed to the hospital after being pelted with rocks and attacked with bamboo sticks, said Jakarta’s police chief. He said four protesters were arrested and one was hospitalized. Demonstrators burned a picture of the U.S. President and also tried to ignite a fire truck parked outside the embassy after ripping a water hose off the vehicle and torching it, sending plumes of black smoke billowing into the sky. Police used a bullhorn to appeal for calm and deployed water cannons and tear gas to try to disperse the crowd. In the central Java town of Solo, protesters stormed KFC and McDonald’s restaurants, forcing customers to leave and management to close the stores.

Source: <http://www.navytimes.com/news/2012/09/ap-afghan-protest-over-anti-islam-film-turns-violent-091712/>

25. *September 14, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Ohio college safe, reopened after bomb threat.** Hiram College officials gave the “all clear” and reopened their northeast Ohio school September 14, after an hours-long sweep found nothing suspicious following a bomb threat. A college spokesman said the campus community was alerted that the school was safe. The college received an emailed bomb threat about 4 p.m. and ordered everyone on campus to evacuate. The spokesman said State and Federal authorities were notified about the email, and safety teams with bomb-sniffing dogs checked the campus “room by room, building by building.” The school said on its Web site that it continues an investigation to identify the person responsible for the threat. Bomb threats also caused evacuations September 14 at campuses in Texas and North Dakota. Students with no place to go went to a church and village hall off campus. Firefighters advised people during the evacuation to avoid the area.

Source: <http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Ohio-college-safe-reopened-after-bomb-threat-3866515.php>

Emergency Services Sector

26. *September 16, Waco Tribune-Herald* – (Texas) **Bosque County sheriff moves dispatch center after 2 fall ill.** The Bosque County Sheriff's Department closed down the room holding its dispatch center in Meridian, Texas, September 15 after two employees called in sick with conditions that may relate to air quality in the room, the chief deputy sheriff said. Authorities moved the dispatch operations to the county's emergency operations center with the permission of the county emergency management coordinator. He said the sheriff's administrative lines have been forwarded to the emergency center, which cannot receive 9-1-1 calls. Calls to 9-1-1 were being forwarded to Hill County, which notifies Bosque County immediately. The chief deputy sheriff said the building, which also houses the jail, has had problems for some time with sewage backing up. He said no inmates have reported illnesses that might be related to the sewage backups.
Source: <http://www.wacotrib.com/news/crime/169932716.html>
27. *September 15, Associated Press* – (National) **Safety regulators looking at Ford police cars.** Government safety regulators are investigating Ford's Crown Victoria police cars due to complaints about defective steering columns, the Associated Press reported September 15. The probe affects about 195,000 cars from the 2005 through 2008 model years. The government has received three complaints that part of the steering column can separate and cause loss of steering control. No crashes or injuries were reported, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said in documents posted September 15 on its Web site. Investigators will determine if the cars have a safety defect and whether a recall is needed. So far the vehicles have not been recalled. A Ford spokeswoman said that the company is aware of the investigation and is cooperating. The investigation only affects police versions of the Crown Victoria, she said. The Montgomery County, Maryland, Police Department said earlier the week of September 10 it was inspecting its 324 Crown Victorias because of a steering problem with its cruisers. Police in Tucson, Arizona also recently began inspecting its fleet of Crown Victorias. The police officer union says that at least six vehicles were found to be deficient and in need of repair.
Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20120915/business/709159881/>
28. *September 15, Toledo Blade* – (Ohio) **Ohio fire station closed due to safety concerns.** The fire chief ordered a Toledo, Ohio fire station closed September 13 after crews discovered the floor had cracked and shifted. Crews and equipment from Station 3 were moved to East Toledo's Station 13, with concerns that the floor could collapse as a fire engine would back into the apparatus bay, said the fire lieutenant. Fire officials do not expect the change in stations to impact calls for service very much, if at all. Other stations will help pick up calls for service. Station 3 crews will stay at Station 13 until a temporary garage next to the Bush Street location is built so the engine can be stored there. From there, officials will look at permanent solutions.
Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/10780239/ohio-fire-station-closed-due-to-safety-concerns>

29. *September 14, WSPA 7 Spartanburg* – (South Carolina) **South Carolina inmates with illegal phones guide officer rescue.** The South Carolina Department of Corrections still does not know yet exactly what led to a hostage situation at Lee Correctional Institution in Bishopville September 13 because investigators have not interviewed the officer who was taken hostage. After being rescued, he was taken to the hospital with minor injuries. The incident started in one of the dorms at Lee. The department's Rapid Response Team was able to get the situation under control 5 hours later, and find the officer handcuffed in a broom closet. Inmates using illegal cell phones called prison officials and led them to the officer's location.
Source: <http://www2.wspa.com/news/2012/sep/13/8/report-sc-officer-held-hostage-inmates-prison-ar-4539350/>
30. *September 13, KOIN 6 Portland* – (Oregon) **Report: Portland police using excessive force against mentally ill.** Portland, Oregon police officers use excessive force against people with mental illnesses, a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) report has found. The DOJ presented its findings at a press conference September 13 The investigation, which began in June 2011, determined that the "Portland Police Bureau (PPB) has engaged in an unconstitutional pattern or practice of excessive force against people with mental illness," said a press release. The joint investigation by the Civil Rights Division Special Litigation Section and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon focused heavily on police response to mental health situations. At the September 13 press conference, the assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division said that over the last 3 years, Portland police have used deadly force 12 times, 10 of which involved people with mental health issues. A preliminary agreement has since been reached to make changes to PPB officer training, practices and supervision, the DOJ said.
Source: <http://www.koinlocal6.com/content/breaking/story/Report-Portland-police-using-excessive-force/FvH7faP4jkqYZnnoNS5fvQ.cspX>

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Information Technology Sector

31. *September 17, The H* – (International) **Attackers exploit unpatched Internet Explorer vulnerability.** According to a security specialist, a security hole in Microsoft's Internet Explorer (IE) Web browser is being used by cyber criminals to infect computers with malware. The vulnerability, which was apparently unknown and unpatched until now, appears to hinge on how IE handles arrays in HTML files. So far, the attackers only targeted versions 7 and 8 of IE on fully patched Windows XP SP3 systems; it is not yet certain whether the exploit can be used with other software combinations. The specialist discovered the code on a server apparently being used for targeted attacks by the Chinese hacker group known as the Nitro gang. The first exploit for the critical Java vulnerability Oracle fixed with an emergency patch in August was also found on a server that appears to be linked to the Nitro gang. In the current attack, a specially prepared Web page executes a Flash applet that uses heap spraying to distribute shellcode in the system memory. It then reloads an iframe that uses the IE vulnerability to run the shellcode. An analysis from security firm Alien Vault found the

remote administration tool Poison Ivy is currently being distributed in this way to give the attackers complete access to the infected system.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Attackers-exploit-unpatched-Internet-Explorer-vulnerability-1709592.html>

32. *September 17, Help Net Security* – (International) **LinkedIn-themed spam using data stolen in June breach?** Spoofed LinkedIn emails notifying recipients of messages requiring their attention are not new, but ones being distributed recently appear to be more targeted than usual. The emails supposedly come from LinkedIn Reminders and usually contain “There are a total of messages awaiting your response” in the subject line. What makes this spam run different is that most of them landed in real accounts instead of spam traps, making Avira’s researchers suspect the spammers have access to information stolen from the professional social network during the June breach. If that is true, the scammers are probably having more success than usual in trying to get users to follow the offered link. While the link’s destination is an online pharmacy presenting no immediate danger to users, the destination can be changed at any time, and lead them to Web sites serving malware.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=13607>

33. *September 15, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Stolen iOS data used as malware lure.** The recent high-profile breach of Apple iOS device data has become the latest lure for malware writers looking to infect users. Researchers with McAfee discovered a series of files being advertised on download services as an archive of the data stolen by hackers affiliated with the Anonymous AntiSec campaign. Though the hackers claimed the data was lifted from the personal laptop of an FBI agent, the bureau denied the claim and a U.S. publisher later took the blame for the breach. According to a McAfee senior threat researcher, the attackers hid a trojan as a file made to look as if it contained the hacked data. “As you might have guessed, this file is not the real list but an ‘exe’ file and, of course, a malware,” he said. “[W]e recommend you take care before downloading an alleged sensational file.”

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3-uk/news/2205805/stolen-ios-data-used-as-malware-lure>

34. *September 14, Threatpost* – (International) **Tool scans for RTF files spreading malware in targeted attacks.** Exploits embedded inside Microsoft Office documents such as Word, PDFs, and Excel spreadsheets have been at the core of many targeted attacks during the past 2 years. Detection of these attack methods is improving and hackers are recognizing the need for new avenues into enterprise networks. Some have been finding success using rich text format (RTF) files to spread malware that exploits Office vulnerabilities. In June, a researcher reported she collected 90 RTF files over the course of 3 months, many with China-related file names and many targeting specific industries. All of them were exploiting CVE-2012-0158, a vulnerability in Active X controls within MSCOMCTL.OCX—OLE files developed by Microsoft to allow object linking and embedding to documents and other files.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/tool-scans-rtf-files-spreading-malware-targeted-attacks-091412

35. *September 14, PCWorld* – (International) **Your PC may come with malware pre-installed.** Microsoft researchers investigating counterfeit software in China found that new systems being booted for the first time were already compromised with botnet malware right out of the box. Microsoft filed a computer fraud suit against a Web domain registered to a Chinese businessman. The suit alleges the Nitel malware on the new PCs points the compromised systems to 3322.org. Microsoft believes the site is a major hub of malware and malicious online activity. Microsoft claimed that the site in question hosts Nitel, as well as 500 other types of malware. A Washington Post report stated it is the largest single repository of malicious software ever encountered by Microsoft.
Source: http://www.pcworld.com/article/262325/your_pc_may_come_with_malware_pre_installed.html
36. *September 14, Threatpost* – (International) **Fake ADP and FDIC notifications leading users to Blackhole Exploit Kit.** The latest iteration of the Blackhole Exploit Kit hit the Web the week of September 10 and attackers spread links to get unsuspecting victims to click through to the first version of the kit. Email notifications claiming to come from Microsoft Exchange, ADP, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and other purported “trusted sources” were spotted leading Web users to pages hosting the original exploit kit. A notification claiming to come from payroll services company ADP tries to trick employees into clicking through to what appears to be their Online Invoice Management account to “protect the security of [their] data.” An email disguised as a voicemail notification from Microsoft Exchange Server tries to get users to click a link to listen to a voicemail. An email that appears to be from the FDIC tries to get users to click to download “a new security version.”
Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/fake-adp-and-fdic-notifications-leading-users-blackhole-exploit-kit-091412

For another story, see item [9](#)

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

37. *September 15, Greenville News* – (South Carolina) **Damage costly as highwire copper thieves disrupt cable service.** Authorities in South Carolina are looking for the copper thief or thieves who “somehow reached the cable/phone lines measuring from one telephone pole to another (which is approximately 400 feet and approximately 35 feet from ground), cutting them, stealing the copper wiring, fibrotic cables and metal

conduit lines,” according to a Spartanburg County sheriff’s report. Neighbors reported loss of service beginning September 14. The theft in Chesnee involved equipment belonging to Chesnee Communications and Charter Communications, and will result in roughly \$10,000 in repairs for each company, a sheriff’s deputy said.

Source:

http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20120915/NEWS/309150111/Damage-costly-highwire-copper-thieves-disrupt-cable-service?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE&gcheck=1&nclick_check=1

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Commercial Facilities Sector

38. *September 17, Idaho State Journal; Idaho Standard Journal* – (Idaho) **Walmart bomb threats hit East Idaho.** The nationwide bomb threat trend at Walmart stores was evident in Eastern Idaho September 15 during incidents in Ammon and Rexburg. The Rexburg Walmart and two adjacent stores, Payless Shoe Source and Sally’s Beauty Supply, were evacuated as police and a bomb-sniffing dog searched the Walmart. Police said there were no bombs present and allowed people back into all three stores. A few hours later Bonneville County deputies responded to two suspicious packages reported at the Ammon Walmart, where at least two bomb threats have been reported this year. The Idaho Falls Bomb Squad was called in to investigate the boxes, which were empty. The store was not evacuated. The Rexburg incident appears to be part of a national trend of bomb threats being phoned into Walmart stores via an untraceable Internet phone line. Several such bomb threats have been called into Walmarks throughout the United States in recent months, including threats called into Eastern Idaho Walmarks. September 11, a store employee made what turned out to be a false bomb threat at the Garden City Walmart near Boise. The store was evacuated and closed for an hour as police investigated. It was soon determined that the store employee was allegedly behind the false report. He was arrested and jailed.

Source: http://www.idahostatejournal.com/news/local/article_ca918238-0096-11e2-8d09-0019bb2963f4.html

39. *September 17, WNYW 5 New York; Associated Press* – (New York) **Dozens displaced in suspicious Yonkers fire.** Fire officials were investigating a suspicious fire that broke out in Yonkers September 16. Authorities said the three-alarm blaze may have been intentionally set. The fire displaced 28 people and took dozens of firefighters to extinguish. The fire damaged five residential buildings, one was completely destroyed. Four residents were hospitalized for smoke inhalation. Four firefighters suffered minor injuries. As many as six dogs may have perished in the fire. The Red Cross set up a reception center at the PAL building on North Broadway to help the displaced residents. Twenty-seven residents registered for assistance but the organization said more people may have lost their homes and not yet signed up for help.

Source: <http://www.myfoxny.com/story/19558262/28-residents-displaced-in-suspicious-3-alarm-fire-in-yonkers>

40. *September 17, Jamestown Sun* – (North Dakota) **Bomb threat evacuates downtown Fargo Hotel.** A bomb threat evacuated the downtown Radisson Hotel in Fargo, North Dakota, for nearly 2 hours September 15, the region's fourth such threat in a week. A Fargo police lieutenant said the threat was made in a phone call to Radisson staff, at which point the hotel made the decision to evacuate guests. After police officers arrived and performed a cursory search of the building it was determined there was no validity to the threats made in the call. Hotel guests were allowed back into the building after the police cleared the scene. The incident followed similar threats to the Fargo Hector International Airport September 11, the Grand Forks International Airport September 12, and North Dakota State University September 14. The police are treating September 15's threat as separate, but are not ruling out the possibility that it is related to the others made over the week.
Source: <http://www.jamestownsun.com/event/article/id/169425/group/News/>
41. *September 17, Associated Press* – (Utah) **2 arrested in chemical spray release at Riverton Walmart.** Two suspects were arrested on suspicion of releasing a pepper spray-like substance in a Walmart in Riverton, Utah, that prompted an evacuation of the store. A Unified Police Department lieutenant said that about 80 people were treated at the scene and 3 people were sent to local hospitals after the incident September 16. Authorities released photographs of the two suspects and police received a tip that they were at a certain location in Herriman, Utah. The two suspects were booked into the Salt Lake County Jail. One was arrested on various charges, including felony counts of terroristic threats, causing a catastrophe, aggravated assault, and obstructing justice. The other was booked on a misdemeanor count of assault and a felony count of obstructing justice.
Source: <http://www.standard.net/stories/2012/09/17/2-arrested-chemical-spray-release-riverton-walmart>
42. *September 17, Associated Press; WMAQ 5 Chicago* – (Illinois) **Teen charged with Chicago bomb plot due in court.** A man accused of trying to detonate a car bomb outside a bar in downtown Chicago was scheduled to appear in federal court September 17. Prosecutors said an undercover agent gave the man a phony car bomb and watched him press the trigger. He was charged with attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and attempting to damage and destroy a building with an explosive. Federal prosecutors said the device was harmless and the public was never at risk. An affidavit said the man was active in jihadist Internet forums. The FBI said he searched online for information about making bombs and he was offered several chances to walk away from the plot. He was arrested September 14.
Source: <http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/Teen-Charged-With-Chicago-Bomb-Plot-Due-in-Court-170010526.html#ixzz26kAmIgLL>
43. *September 16, KOKH 25 Oklahoma City* – (Oklahoma) **Three alarm fire damages Beds Direct warehouse.** A three alarm fire damaged the Beds Direct warehouse in Oklahoma City, September 16. City firefighters said they believe the fire sparked from a pick-up truck parked inside the building. Employees at Beds Direct told reporters when they heard the fire alarm go off they walked into the warehouse and saw the truck engulfed in flames. Firefighters had the flames contained within hours. They said the

fire destroyed hundreds of beds and other furniture stored in the warehouse and estimated the fire caused \$230,000 in damage.

Source: http://www.okcfox.com/newsroom/top_stories/videos/kokh_vid_6970.shtml

44. *September 16, WOWT 6 Omaha* – (Nebraska) **40 residents displaced by apartment fire.** An apartment fire in Omaha, Nebraska, displaced 40 residents September 16. Firefighters were called to the Sierra Place Apartments and radio reports indicated three people trapped on a third-floor balcony were rescued. The fire was under control about a half-hour later. An estimated 30 units were damaged by flames, smoke, or water.

Source: <http://www.wowt.com/news/headlines/Forty-Forced-From-Homes-By-Apartment-Fire-169949836.html>

45. *September 16, Chicago Sun Times* – (Illinois) **15 injured in chlorine leak at fitness center.** Fifteen people were taken to four area hospitals September 14 after apparently being overcome by chlorine fumes inside a popular health club in Warrenville, Illinois. “All of the apparent injuries were non-life-threatening,” said a spokesman for the Warrenville Fire Protection District chief. Firefighters and paramedics from 10 local fire agencies responded. The incident occurred at Lifetime Fitness in the Cantera office and business development. The affected patrons and employees reported suffering headaches and dizziness. The spokesman said he did not know the source of the apparent chlorine leak. The club has an indoor swimming pool. The center closed following the incident.

Source: <http://beaconnews.suntimes.com/news/15155184-418/15-injured-during-chlorine-leak-at-warrenville-fitness-center.html>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

46. *September 17, Palm Springs Desert Sun* – (California) **Southern California battles blazes.** Brush fires in southern California over the weekend of September 15 blackened about 1,300 acres and threatened an upscale beach resort, Marine base, and an art museum. Residents voluntarily evacuated and one firefighter was injured, but no structural damage was reported. Smoke was visible September 16 over Camp Pendleton, where about 1,200 acres were blackened since it first started. A Marine spokesman said the fire, in the north-central section of the base, was believed to have started during artillery training. The fire was about 70 percent contained by September 16. Los Angeles firefighters September 16 contained a 90-acre brush fire on the mountain near the famed Getty Center art museum. The blaze erupted September 14 on the east side of the busy Interstate 405. The Getty Center evacuated visitors and staff September 14 as a precaution and closed. Access roads to the museum were closed off and on.

Source:

<http://www.mydesert.com/viewart/20120917/NEWS0803/309170018/Southern-California-battles-blazes>

47. *September 17, KNDU 25 Kennewick; KNDU 23 Yakima* – (Washington) **More than 90 wildfires continue to burn.** Over 900 firefighters are still battling around 90 wildfires in Washington’s Yakima and Kittitas Counties that were sparked by lightning storms the week of September 10. Two fires are steadily growing, and more firefighters from out of State were being called in to help. The Table Mountain Fire was growing larger, and around 100 people were evacuated from the town of Liberty. Two hundred others have been put on alert. The Wild Rose Fire near Rimrock Lake has grown to nearly 3,000 acres, has reached State Highway 12. Air quality is poor, and people were encouraged to limit strenuous outdoor activities. About 6,000 acres are burning, and firefighters said they are at 10 percent containment. A State-wide burn ban has been issued by the governor. Firefighters said this is for good reason since conditions are the driest they have seen in years, and no rain is predicted until the week of September 24. Source: <http://www.kndo.com/story/19558189/more-than-90-wildfires-continue-to-burn>

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Dams Sector

48. *September 15, Vancouver Columbian* – (Washington) **Condit Dam removal complete.** Demolition crews removed the last of Condit Dam from the White Salmon River in Washington, a PacifiCorp official confirmed September 15. The announcement was a milestone for the removal that began with a blast of dynamite in 2011, the Vancouver Columbian reported. It also met a September 15 deadline for in-water work to be finished. Even though the dam itself is gone, crews were still working near the river and have yet to give the green light for recreation. The White Salmon River remained open upstream of Northwestern Lake Park. Crews were working on the 125-foot-tall structure in earnest since spring, removing about 35,000 cubic yards of concrete. Source: <http://www.columbian.com/news/2012/sep/15/crews-complete-removal-condit-dam-white-salmon-riv/>
49. *September 15, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Santa Clara tallies damage, cleans up flood.** After heavy rains breached an earthen dike, flooding dozens of homes and businesses in Santa Clara, Utah, September 11, crews were building a new emergency runoff channel from the retention pond the dike helped contain. The city manager said September 13 that public works employees were laying out large wooden pallets laden with sandbags along a route through open fields toward the Santa Clara River. The plan is for quick construction of a runoff pathway to rechannel subsequent storms away from homes and businesses, he said. Meanwhile, a state engineer’s report mentioning rodent holes in the failed, 93-year-old dike — cleared by inspectors in April — came to light September 13. “All earthen dams and dikes have rodent holes, that’s just their nature. We’ve stayed on top of those, so while rodent holes could be a contributing factor, they are only one of many possible causes,” the manager said. Another factor may have been a drain within the dike that apparently was overwhelmed. The manager said the rechanneling route would be Santa Clara’s primary response to future flooding for at least a year, until the dike is repaired or replaced.

Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/54888439-78/clara-dike-santa-dickie.html.csp>

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